



## **Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 4**

**Meeting Date:** May 8, 2006

**Meeting Location:** Allen County Department of Child Services,  
201 E. Rudisill Blvd., Fort Wayne, Indiana

### **Council Members Present:**

Dave Judkins, Regional Manager DCS region 4  
Steve Scott, Adams County Director DCS  
Andria Eguia, Family Case Manager DCS  
Kimberley Wilson, Family Case Manager Supervisor DCS  
Judge Charles Pratt, Allen County  
Jan Lung, Steuben/Lagrange County Director  
Rex McFarren, Allen County CASA

### **Council Members Absent:**

Mary Southern, Dekalb County Director DCS  
Judge Michael Kramer, Noble County  
Judge James Heuer, Whitley County  
Alice Mull, Foster Parent

### **Others In Attendance:**

Michelle Savieo – Allen County Director  
Rachel Tobin-Smith SCAN  
Elizabeth (Liz) Learned – Huntington County Director  
Tracy Riggle - Regional Manager, Whites Family Services

<b>Meeting Minutes</b>
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**Meeting Called to Order at:** 4:17 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review of minutes from the last meeting (3-13-06). Minutes approved without correction.

Rachel Tobin-Smith of SCAN is present and introduced. Ms. Tobin-Smith will be presenting on the Community Partners for Child Safety program for region 4. Dave Judkins explains, as a reminder, that the Community Partners for Child Safety will be picking up the early intervention services formerly provided through DCS. Each region was allocated funding to start up this program. SCAN will be heading up the program in our region. Rachel Tobin-Smith states that SCAN has

named this the Network for Safe Families. Ms. Tobin-Smith states that there is nothing cut in stone yet this program is very developmental. Rachel Tobin-Smith came this evening to get input reference how our region would like this program to look. Ms. Tobin-Smith indicated that there has to be home based and assessments. SCAN will be using the KEMPE assessment tool. SCAN is trying to develop a network of providers from each county within the region. The network will consist of those providers who are already providing the services in the individual counties. SCAN will be adding to the provider list of who we, as a region, want to work with. Rachel Tobin-Smith states that SCAN is well aware that there are people in the communities that not happy regarding the loss of funding. Rachel Tobin-Smith goes on to explain that SCAN has developed a 3 track program. The initiation will be at a centralized intake system. SCAN will be in charge of the intake. SCAN will do the KEMPE assessment within 5 days. There will be 2-3 visits to home in that 5 day window. Rachel Tobin-Smith adds that SCAN will be enhancing the intake with a couple of other assessment tools. The belief is that these families will have a prominent problem that will fit into one of the 3 tracks. Those tracks for services are:

- a. Mental Health/Drug Issues. This is for parents/children with mental health and/or drug issues.
- b. MR/DD Matters. This will have families where a parent or child has a MR/DD issue that is the basis for involvement.
- c. Social Services. This track covers a wide gambit of services that address illness, poverty, domestic violence, and parenting issue.

During the assessment the “neighborhood liaison” (this name will probably change) will accompany the assessment worker on the second visit. Then a family case conference will be held. Rachel Tobin-Smith handed out a Flow chart of how this may look. The program will be looking at non traditional services to build the community around the families. To create volunteer base is a difficult plan SCAN plans on connecting with those that already exist in the community. Referrals can be from anywhere – there was talk that for the first year to try to limit where the referrals come from. The thought was that the schools could overwhelm the system. The plan would then be to let them in after moving forward with the program. The families will have to complete 3 goals to get out of the system. Rachel Tobin-Smith indicated that SCAN will need to look at a situation re those that do not engage.

Dave Judkins reminds us that these are voluntary services. Dave brought up the fact that the question has been raised as to how this is separate from system of care? Dave explains that the state is heading towards a practice model. The model is based on engaging the family. The whole key is giving the family ownership. The belief is that the families will quit services if we approach with different, more authoritarian, model. We will listen to them from the start and give them

ownership. How do we blend this in with wrap around program? Counties should be able to blend the two programs. There is the potential for Community Partners to engulf wraparound and become one system.

Rachel Tobin-Smith adds that there will be a governance council which will have required participants that will oversee the program. She adds that there will be a management group SCAN will be using Datatude (the HFA network) for this program. Ms. Tobin-Smith reminds all that the program will evolve how it will look from day one to a year later. She is asking that there is an open dialogue from all about what the region would like to see happen with this. SCAN wants input from the county directors to help craft this program. This is supposed to be owned by all of us this program is not just SCAN's program. SCAN tried to get one provider from each area of service within the region to cover the different tracks of services. The program cannot promise how much work each provider will get. This was an effort have a model to follow. Previously the prevention monies were spent in a broad array of ways throughout the state this is an effort to get them all looking the same. Discussion on the program follows:

Judge Pratt asks if a DCS intake officer will manage the intake of these referrals. What is the mechanism then to send it back to DCS when this program doesn't apply? The process for this will be very fast paced. The questions raised were will this change the minimum level of sufficient care standard? Where is the line? Historically DCS has picked up services cases without court intervention due to the funding. Steve Scott states that historically, the providers knew there was a problem then referred to DCS to get the services paid for because we had the funding to care for these families. Rex McFarren asks if the intake persons for Community Partners be trained on when to kick the referral back over to DCS? Dave Judkins states that yes they will and the reverse will also happen. Response time is of concern. Judge Pratt asks if there will be a record of these services. For example they have been through this program on two other occasions and it now rises to the level of court involvement will the records be there to show the services offered etc.? Rachel Tobin-Smith indicates that yes there will be. Will this be expunged? Michelle Savieo brings up the fact that in the DCS system as it currently is we would not know this information. Rachel Tobin-Smith brings up the question of will the report go back to the referring agency? This is a question that will need to be addressed. The assessment worker will be doing more than assessing. SCAN will have workers strategically placed throughout the region. SCAN is looking at hiring 3 workers and placing them throughout the region. The worker does drive to the home. The providing agencies may have one or two who are assessment trained. There was a concern noted from Elizabeth Learned that this program has the potential to be top heavy financially. Is the money that was previously used for services now going to go into the management of this program vs. helping the families? Rachel Tobin-Smith stated that SCAN would look into

this aspect. Rex McFarren asks is there a limit as to the number of times they can be referred. Say DCS sees a family and unsubstantiated the allegations and sends it over. Is there a cap on this? This has not been decided yet. Discussion ends and Rachel Tobin-Smith dismisses herself.

3. Dave Judkins hands out the RFP for Child Advocacy Centers that will be going out. These centers will be required to at least meet the goals outlined on the service standards provided. Dave Judkins mentions that as a region we previously discussed an RFP for translation services and this was brought up centrally as being a state wide problem so Central office will be tackling the issue.
4. 2007 County DCS Budget discussion. Dave Judkins relays that this process will be much the same as it has been in the past for the 2007 budget year.
5. Local DCS matters. The issue of parental consent for surgeries of wards vs. court orders for said surgeries that was discussed last meeting was brought up again. Judge Pratt will be e-mailing his constituents in the region to see their opinion on the matter, and how should be handled. The goal is to reach standardization at least regionally for this process.

**Next Meeting Date, Location and Time:**

Monday, June 12, 2006 at Noble County Department of Child Services, 107 Weber Rd., Albion, Indiana

**Meeting Adjourned at:** 5:47p.m.